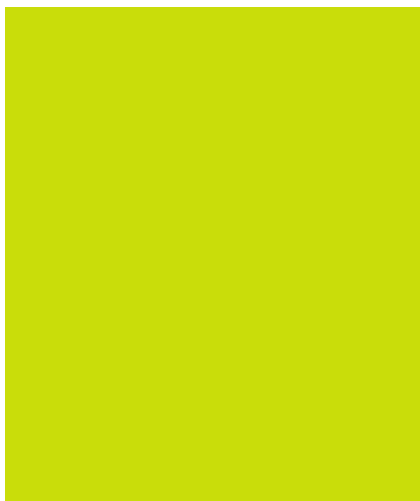




Quality First, Arizona's Quality Improvement and Rating System



FIRST THINGS FIRST

What is Quality First ?



Quality First is designed to improve the quality of Arizona's early care and education programs so that young children can begin school safe, healthy and ready to succeed.



Why Quality Rating Systems?

- Identify, assess and raise quality standards
- Improve school readiness
- Decrease need for expensive interventions
- Inform policy makers and communities about quality standards
- Help families in selecting quality early care settings for their children



Components of the Quality First Program

- Program Assessment
- Individualized Coaching
- Financial Incentives
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Arizona
- Quality First Child Care Scholarships
- Quality First Specialized Technical Assistance in the areas of Child Health, Mental Health, Inclusion with Children of Special Needs, and Instructional Support
- Star Rating



Quality First Coaching

Two statewide grantees (VSUW and UWTSA) who partner with four agencies that provide direct coaching services

Valley of the Sun United Way Partnership (Central, North)

- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Southwest Human Development

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona (South, West)

- Child and Family Resources
- Easter Seals Blake Foundation



Current Enrollment in Quality First

Over **750 statewide** early care and education providers in a variety of early care and education settings.

ASCC currently serves three programs on Navajo Nation:

- C.O.P.E. Program in Kayenta
- Little Folks Day Care in Navajo, NM
- Kayenta ABC School in Kayenta



Quality First Program Assessment

- Two agencies that provide assessment services
 - Southwest Human Development**
 - Association for Supportive Child Care**
- Assessor Qualifications and Training
 - Experience**
 - Training**
 - Ongoing Reliability**

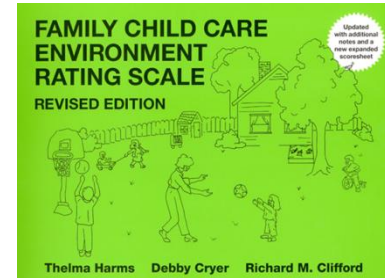
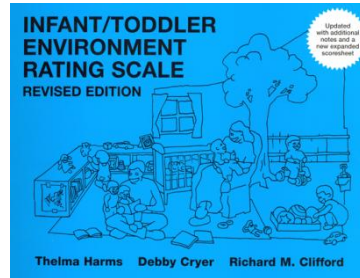
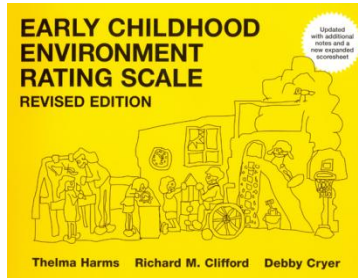


Quality First Program Assessment

- Assessments are completed approximately every 12-15 months
- Assessments are confidential
- Assessments are used to identify a program's strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Assessments are used for assignment of Star Rating



Program Assessment: Environmental Rating Scale

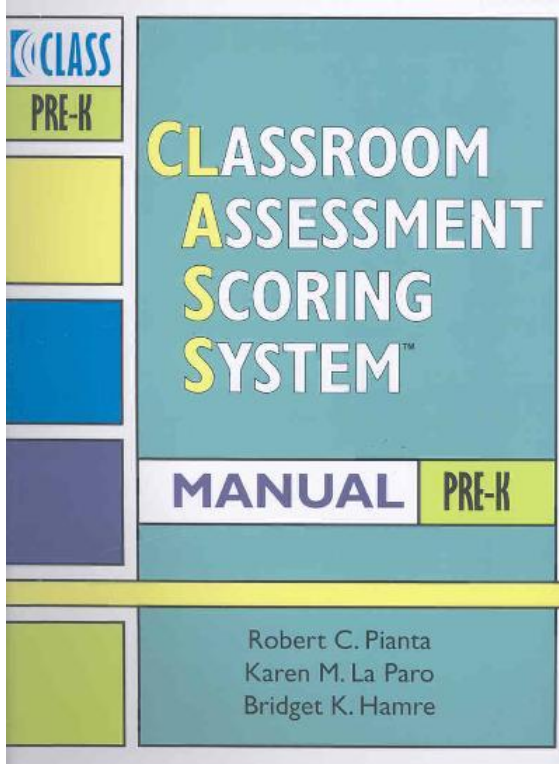


Measures the Quality of the Environment to determine if

1. There are chances for children to build a strong sense of self and positive relationships with other children and adults
2. There are appropriate learning opportunities that meet a wide range of developmental needs
3. Children's health and safety needs are protected



Program Assessment: CLASS



Measures teacher-child interactions in three Domains

1. Emotional Support
2. Classroom Organization
3. Instructional Support



Program Assessment: Quality First Points Scale

Measures additional quality standards not assessed in either the ERS or the CLASS

1. Teacher Qualifications
2. Administrative Practices
3. Curriculum and Child Assessment



Quality First Star Rating

 Highest Quality				
 Quality Plus				
 Quality				
 Progressing Star				
 Rising Star				
<p>Demonstrates a level of quality that provides an environment that is healthy and safe with access to developmentally appropriate materials. Curriculum is aligned with state standards. Interactions between adults and children are enhanced. Staff qualifications exceed state regulatory requirements.</p>				
<p>Demonstrates a commitment to provide environments that are progressing in the ability to foster the health, safety and development of young children.</p>				
<p>Demonstrates a commitment to examine practices and improve the quality of care beyond regulatory requirements.</p>				
<p>ERS Average Program Score 1.0 – 1.99</p>				
<p>ERS Average Program Score 2.0 – 2.99</p>				
<p>ERS Average Program Score 3.0 – 3.99 <i>No classroom score below 2.5</i></p>				
<p>ERS Average Program Score 4.0 – 4.99 <i>No classroom score below 3.0</i></p>				
<p>ERS Average Program Score 5.0 & above <i>No classroom score below 3.0</i></p>				
<p>CLASS Average Program Score</p>				
<p>CLASS Average Program Score</p>				
<p>CLASS Average Program Score</p>				
<p>CLASS Average Program Score</p>				
<p>CLASS Average Program Score</p>				
<p>Points Scale 6 point minimum</p>				
<p>Points Scale 10 point minimum</p>				
<p>Points Scale 12 point minimum</p>				
<p>Points Scale N/A</p>				
<p>Points Scale N/A</p>				
<p>Points Scale N/A</p>				
<p>Points Scale N/A</p>				
<p>Points Scale N/A</p>				



Quality First Coaching

Individualized Guidance and Support

- Partner with providers throughout process to improve quality of child care
 - Quality Improvement Plan
 - Quality Rating Plan
- Monthly site visits
- Classrooms Observations, targeted training and technical assistance
- Tips and techniques for topics such as:
 - Classroom Management
 - Curriculum and teaching strategies
 - Program Development
- Links to community resources, including collaboration



Quality First Coaching

- Teach/support quality improvement goal setting process
- Framework for coach and provider to work towards common goals
- Regulatory standards foundation
- A combination of data used to inform goal setting
- Goals can cover training, physical environment changes, health and safety, program structure and other topics
- Provider works with coach to determine priorities each year



Financial Incentives

- Support programs in improving and maintaining program quality
- Based on licensed capacity for children birth – age five (*not in kindergarten*)
- Two Types: Enhancement Grants/Quality Bonus
- Directly linked to QIP/QRP
- Licensing Fee Assistance
- Available annually



Additional Quality First Components

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA
- Quality First Child Care Scholarships
- Quality First Specialized Technical Assistance
 - Star Rating



Recruitment

Process for Enrollment in Quality First

- Application to First Things First
(on-line: www.azftf.gov)
- Selected to Participate
- Assigned to a Grantee/Coaching Agency
- Program Assessment
- Program Orientation/Assessment Result Review
- Enrollment



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